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SUBJECT: JERUSALEM MEDIA REACTION (06/03): PALESTINIAN ANTICIPATION
OF THE JUNE 4 SPEECH

Main Stories:

All dailies lead with lengthy excerpts from President Obama's interview with BBC on June 2, highlighting his support for a Middle East peace settlement and the relaunch of negotiations between Palestinians and Israel. Regarding his June 4 speech, papers highlight that Obama notes that one speech is not enough to solve all problems, but will at least offer a chance for parties to listen to each other.

All dailies run front page coverage citing Israeli daily "Haaretz" about U.S dissatisfaction with Israeli plans to build a hotel and shopping center in East Jerusalem, near the Old City, despite U.S. calls on Israel not to pursue similar activities in East Jerusalem.

Al-Quds runs front page coverage citing DPA of remarks by Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov and Israeli Foreign Minister Lieberman speaking at a joint press conference on June 2 in Moscow. According to coverage, Lavrov called on Hamas and Palestinian Authority President Abbas to support Egyptian efforts to end the crisis in Gaza and accelerate Gaza reconstruction. Lieberman noted that halting settlement activities should not be a precondition for relaunching negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians, the paper reports.

All dailies report on a June 2 shooting in the Old City of Jerusalem in which an "Israeli settler" killed a young Palestinian, "upon realizing that the young man was Arab." Al-Hayat Al-Jadida's story adds news of another settler attack: 12.5 acres of Palestinian olive orchards were burned by Israeli settlers on June 2 in the Nablus area of the West Bank.

Al-Ayyam runs front page coverage of a request by Israeli Premier Netanyahu to President Obama regarding Israel needing until July to review its policy towards the Palestinians, including the issues of the two-state solution, settlement activities and an end to the Gaza "siege."

Al-Ayyam runs inside coverage of a June 2 meeting between USAID officials and the Hebron Mayor during which possibilities for U.S. support to the Hebron Municipality were discussed.

BLOCK QUOTES:

1) Omar Hilmi Al-Ghul opines in Al-Hayat Al-Jadida official daily under the title, "Why Obama's speech is for the Arab World?"(06/03):
"What the Arabs and Muslims don't know is that Obama's anticipated speech, addressing the Arab Muslim world, is motivated by his understanding as President of the U.S. of how severe the financial global crisis is, and how much it is affecting the U.S. economy and global standing... The era of globalization has finished and there is a new era in which the U.S. is no longer a key player in defining international policy, but rather, must play a role of partnership with other international powers."

2) Rimonda Tawil opines in Al-Quds independent daily under the title, "The U.S. Administration must prove itself" (06/03): "We would like to ask Obama to be clear and firm in his speech and to address all the problematic issues of the region including the Palestinian issue... He must be willing to back a comprehensive and fair solution [to the Palestinian-Israeli crisis] despite Israeli lies and conspiracies. He must also address the Syrian, Lebanese

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and Iranian issues firmly... We call on Obama to be a man of history... Obama and the U.S. should not miss the current opportunities especially given that moderate Arab countries are now willing to contribute to this change."

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